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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Kiyoshi TANABE et al. : Attn: BOX PCT  
Serial No. NEW : Docket No. 2000-0973A  
Filed July 11, 2000 :

A METHOD OF MUTAGENESIS  
[Corresponding to PCT/JP99/06294  
Filed November 11, 1999]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculating the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".  
Claim 5, line 1, delete "or 4".  
Claim 7, line 1, delete "or 6".  
Claim 9, line 2, after "any" insert -- one --;  
line 3, after "8" insert -- or 11 to 13 --.

Kindly add the following new claims:

-- 11. The method according to claim 2, wherein the cell or the organism individual is mutant cell strain or mutant organism individual having mutator gene in a mutation repair gene group

12. The method according to claim 4, wherein the mutator gene is a gene which causes a defect of mutation repair mechanism under a certain condition.

13. The method according to claim 6, wherein a step of introduction of mutation into genomic DNA under a certain condition and a step of selection of mutant under a selection load condition without introduction of mutation are repeated. --

**REMARKS**

The foregoing amendments are effected to remove the improper multiple dependencies of the claims.

Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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